

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1065  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002  
PROMOTION OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
SURESH CHANDEL

**Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the bumper production of fruits in each State of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the number of food processing industries in the States is much less and does not commensurate with the production of fruits there;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to promote food processing industries in the States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (d): Data regarding fruits produced State-wise including in Himachal Pradesh in the country is maintained by the National Horticulture Board. Number of food processing industries set up in the State depends on a number of factors including available marketable surplus, price of such raw material, availability of trained manpower, demand for fresh and processed products, etc. It has been estimated on the basis of units registered under Fruit Products Order, 1955, that the percentage of fruits and vegetables processed in the country is under 2% of the market arrivals.

For promotion of food processing industries, Government have taken up the tasks of strengthening infrastructure, providing assistance for technology upgradation, modernisation/expansion of existing units, providing support in Backward and Forward Linkages and through assistance in training human resources. Himachal Pradesh falls under the category of difficult area and is entitled to higher scale of assistance compare to the rest of the country.

Further, Government has taken steps in formulating draft Policy for Food Processing Industries create enabling environment, develop appropriate legislative framework to guide the sector and also recommend rationalised tax regime for the same.